

Your Letter From Home

A gal may wear a bathing suit when she can't swim; she may wear shorts and can't play tennis; but when she puts on a wedding dress, she means business.

—83rd Thunderbolt.

Sent To You With The Best Wishes Of
Royal 400 Oil Company
The Fort Dodge Grocery Co.
The Fort Dodge National Bank
Veterans of Foreign Wars
The Gates Dry Goods Co.
The Fort Dodge Creamery Co.
The Fort Dodge Serum Co.
The Tobin Packing Co.
The Elks Club of Fort Dodge

Radio Station K V F D

The courtroom was crowded as the judge finished his lecture to the defendant in a divorce action. "So, I've decided to give your wife \$40.00 per month," were his last words. The husband's face lit up as he smiled. "That's fine, Judge. I'll try to slip her a couple of bucks now and then myself."

—Belvoir Castle.

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WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

August 24, 1945

☛ **DEAR JOE:** When a nightmare has been with you as long as a war, its sudden end is almost certain to catch you with your pants, —I mean painting your house or feeding the rabbits or something. On Friday, I was painting on the west side of the house. It was hot and I was doing my high aerial act, dipping the brush and then slapping it into the corners of the shingles. I wasn't thinking anything much. Painting is dumb and peaceful work leaving the mind as relaxed as a flat tire. Then I got a call to come downtown and meet with the river front commission. So I climbed down and into some clean clothes and went down town . . . Fishing in my desk for some papers, I looked up as Mae went by and she said, "How soon do you think it will end?" I've always been a early ender so I said, "Ought to end pretty soon." Then Drex came along and said, "Looks like it's all over, doesn't it?" So I rushed out and looked at the teletype. There it was. The Japs were asking what about Hirohito, could they surrender and still keep him? I thought, "Gosh, nobody else wants him." But that was before I listened to the commentators. I turned on the speaker in my office and they were at it, hammer and tongs. The real brave blood and thunder patriots wanted to skin him alive or boil him in oil. Were we men or mice? And so far into the night . . . The Japs got a sensible, straight forward answer that made everyone proud of our leaders. And then we waited. And waited. And got tired waiting. What were the Japs doing, were they stalling? I went back to painting and then on Tuesday morning after I had been in bed for hours, John Savage called me at one o'clock. Al was home on furlough. I got him up and together we went down to the Station. KVFD was about the only station in the state that was on the air all that night. And there was the news. Radio Tokyo said it was all over, that the message of complete acceptance was going thru to Switzerland . . . Again we waited all day and then at 6:00 o'clock that evening, President Truman told the world . . . Still hard to realize it's over . . . It's almost too good to be true . . . One of those last days before it ended, Al came in to sit down to the table glumly. He said, "Jim Collins is dead." Mother said, "Who is Jim Collins, dear?" And Al said, "Just a good guy—nobody special. He was a friend of mine. Graduated with me." . . . I knew what he meant, another fine young American dead—one of his generation, a boy who might have been a senator or a general, a doctor or a priest, a playwright or a painter, a good American father and now he was nobody special, just a young hero . . . Al added the postscript. "It's horrible," he added, "that fellows like Jim are dying, being killed, good fellows, when the world is full of so many evil worthless people" . . . Remember Amy Lowell, "In a pattern called a war. Christ! What are patterns for?" . . . Now the pattern is broken—we hope forever. But you are still away. So, my friend, your letter. We go on writing and you go on doing your job. YLFH will stay with you 'till you come home.

☛ **AROUND THE TOWN.** The cigarette situation is better but not back to normal . . . You can buy gas everywhere and without stamps. It's a wonderful feeling . . . A few teen age lawbreakers are beginning to make the old home town look like a haven for dehydrated Dillingers. Latest to thumb their noses at law and order are cousins James Swaney, 15, and Duane Sturdevant, 14. Their odyssey began in Al Loomis' barn-garage last Saturday evening. Jim and Duane wheeled out the Fort Dodge Creamery car which they found unlocked and took off for Cal-i-for-ni-a. Al came home, found the car gone, started hue and cry. In Cozad, Nebraska, a tire went flat and the law's long arm rested harshly on the shoulders of the tiny terrors. Sheriff Joe McMahon went out and got them. The trip back went all right until the boys got to the Fort Dodge police station Tuesday evening. It was about eight o'clock in the evening. It would be light for another half hour. The boys exchanged looks, scrambled out of the back seat and headed again for California, this time on foot, but going fast. They got over to Lutheran hospital, where they were seen several times, but in the darkness they finally slipped away. As this is writtn, they are still on their way. It is believed that a car stolen in Rockwell City Wednesday was taken by them. KVFD is presenting a Tom Mix whistling sheriff's badge to Sheriff McMahon. It may be just what is needed by our peace officers here to sound the alarm in such emergencies. P. S. Al Loomis' other car was stolen a couple of weeks before . . . Duane Johnson, of Gowrie, took top honors in the 4-H Baby Beef show with a black Angus. Bernard Larson, of Otho, had the reserve champion with a Hereford. Moose bought the Angus at 35 cents a pound; Elks bought the reserve champ at 36 cents a pound in the 4-H Auction at the Wessel's Sales Pavilion . . . Barnett Sullivan is new manager of Swaney Service Station . . . The Jr. Chamber of Commerce is hard at it selling tickets for the Harvest Festival. Nearly everyone now is wearing a button "F. D. Booster, Harvest Festival." . . . F. G. Orris, Mayor of Lehigh, is dead, age 81 . . . At least 500 jobs are open in Fort Dodge right now and most industries are advertising feverishly. It is almost impossible to hire a carpenter, brick layer or painter . . . Tobin's are planning a plant about three times the size of its present facility. Tobin's are now employing about 950 people . . . Horn's are breaking ground for a new plant where Martin's Fireworks once stood . . . The National Gypsum Company will spend \$500,000 on an addition to its present plant . . . Terrance Fretheim, of Callender, visiting in Fargo, No. Dakota, was revived after being under water ten minutes . . . S/Sgt. Dave Lundgren called home from Rome the other night, talked to Mrs. Dave three minutes . . . We'll be "two bottle" people next month, whiskey ration is up . . . War Contracts of the Fort Dodge Tent and Awning and Lang-Brody have been partially terminated . . . Herb Horn, of Fort Dodge, and Clarence Harders, of Davenport, were in one car.

Sylvester Sego and Clem Gordon, of Otho, were in the other. The cars met head-on at the intersection of 26 and 169 south of the KVFD tower and transmitter house. All four were injured. The accident happened Wednesday evening about nine o'clock . . . Ray Fox went to the Storm Lake Izaak Walton League field day, won four firsts in casting . . . Sunday, the Fort Dodge Independents defeated Lake City, 8 to 2 . . . We now have bus service from Estherville. That ought to be fine for getting to Okobojo and Spirit Lake . . . 20 Dodgers are attending Civil Air Patrol school at Sioux City . . . Kenneth Smekstad and Otto Mueller were injured when their car overturned as they were coming back from Twin Lakes . . . O. J. Whittemore, Jr., worked on the atomic bomb at M. I. T.

☛ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** 1/Lt. Wm. V. Mulroney from England. Bill expects a discharge soon . . . Home for good is Leonard Albright, Navy coxswain, in the service thirty-three months and overseas in No. Africa, Italy and England for twenty-one months. Present address, 1220 Central Ave. . . . John D. Marsh and Edwin D. Marsh are home at Ida Grove, honorably discharged . . . Out of the army is Pfc. Allison Hill with an honorable discharge, three battle stars and a combat infantry badge . . . Pfc. Raymond G. Johnson from overseas home on a thirty day furlough . . . Carl Nelson, SC 2/c, Seabees, from islands in the Pacific along the Equator . . . S/Sgt. Lewis Beck from the 15th Air Corps in Italy, with 93 points and hoping to be out soon. When the immigration authorities and international protocol have been satisfied, Lewis will marry a beautiful girl now living in Rome . . . Lt. Alan Breen from Camp Fannin, Texas . . . Cpl. Walter Lehman from thirty-three months overseas . . . Thomas Powers, navy petty officer, from twenty-four months in the Solomons . . . Pfc. Arthur Porter from a prisoner of war camp in Germany . . . William Rolow, S 2/c, from Great Lakes . . . S/Sgt. Ralph Shaffer is out on an honorable discharge after 3½ years in Italy . . . T/5 Walter Ackerson after returning from Germany . . . Lt. (j. g.) Joe McTigue enroute to San Francisco . . . WAVE Helen Brofer, from Pensacola, Florida . . . Merle Riechenberg, AMM 3/c, from Boston . . . 1/Lt. and Mrs. Don Peterson, of Callender, enroute to Mather Field, Calif. . . . Howard McIntyre, S 1/c, from Seattle, Washington . . . 2/Lt. Oral Thompson from a German prison camp . . . Basil Barnhill, RdG 2/c from twenty-seven months in the Atlantic on an aircraft carrier . . . Lt. (j. g.) Paul Hannon from the Pacific . . . S/Sgt. Sam Arkoff from Casablanca . . . T/Sgt. Earl Johnson home for thirty days from Germany and thereabouts . . . John Heman, A/S, from Great Lakes.

☛ **BELGIUM.** Sgt. Jerome W. Lundblad is on his way back to the USA from St. Trond, Belgium.

☛ **INDIA.** T/5 Bob Zeka, writing from India, says a new sudden death is abroad in India and it isn't an atomic bomb either. "If anyone mentions Carews Gin, just think of 2x6x6 beneath the surface of Mother India. It is sure death over here. I have seen several GI's go home from the effects of it. They got to the hospital just in time."

☛ **HERE COMES THE BRIDE.** Mary Jane Cavanaugh and Lt. Herb Lefler, jr., August 25th, in Fort Dodge . . . Claire Langlois, of Fleurville, Vosges, France, and Sgt. Arthur Quick, in France soon . . . Peggy Mahoney and Chester Moore, PHM 2/c, August 20th, in Fort Dodge . . . Mary Ellen Lochray and Sgt. R. T. McNeilly, in Fort Dodge, August 19th . . . Phyllis Hughes and Stanley Bittner, S 1/c, in Fort Dodge, August 19th . . . Shirley Smith and Donald Clemens, Sept. 4th, in Fort Dodge . . . Helen Krusland and James G. Gibson, MM 2/c, August 15th, in Spirit Lake . . . Virginia Porter and Glenn L. Keilner, in Los Angeles, August 4th.

☛ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** Pfc. Dwayne Essig was killed in Italy August 7th . . . Arthur Smith, F 1/c, reported missing January 4th, is now presumed by the Navy to be dead.

☛ **DEPARTMENT OF FAIR PLAY AND PUBLIC MISINFORMATION.** Dear Mr. Breen: In YLFH of August 17, you made the statement that troop 14 took part in the V-J day parade. I would like to mention that troop 1 turned out the most boys for the parade. There were some boys from other troops also. I would appreciate it very much if you would mention this in your next YLFH. Thank you. Richard Hansen, Assistant Leader, Panther Patrol, Troop 1. Well, doggone, Richard, we're sorry we made that mistake and we stand corrected. Please accept our apologies and convey them to every Panther in the whole troop.

☛ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** High man in his outfit with 110 points, Palmer Strom is sitting in Reims, France, waiting for the boat home and expecting to be here about the first of September. "Tell Larry Geer to have the doors open. I'll be out to see him when I get there." . . . At Camp Twenty Grand, at Rouen, France, Cpl. H. F. Zenor is processing troops for re-deployment. "We are port engineers for the camp." . . . Lt. Col. John Shrader is on his way home from France.

☛ **OVER HERE.** Happy to get out of the Southern Hospitality zone (Georgia) where "they are still fighting the Civil War", Sgt. C. F. Strand is now processing B29s at Topeka, Kansas . . . Cpl. Warren E. Phillips is at Camp Shelby, Miss. . . . Ruth Eubanks, SK 1/c, is in the NAS Supply in Pasco, Washington, and wonders, not idly, if there are any other Dodgers thereabouts. "Would like to see them if possible." . . . Pvt. Edward Steinhoff, Eugene Brown and Bernard Giese are going thru a gunnery course together at Fort Myers, Fla. . . . Pvt. Floyd M. Bollard is at Ft. Ord, Calif. . . . Emil Porter, AMM 3/c, is at Memphis, Tenn. . . . Pvt. Richard Cervene, now at Ft. Leonard Wood, is shipping out to Cheyenne, Wyoming . . . Sgt. Lloyd Larson is getting ready to ship out from Greensboro, N. C. "It's pretty hot around here. We marched in a parade today at Greensboro. Was hot but it was worth it on VJ Day." . . . Sgt. Jimmie Nolan is in Ft. F. E. Warren, Cheyenne, Wyoming . . . S/Sgt. Eugene D. Person is now at the air base at Great Bend, Kansas . . . Pvt. Donald E. Strait is on his

way home from Georgia . . . M. C. Edson, RM 2/c, is at Treasure Island, Calif. . . John W. Saxton, jr., S 2/c, is at Shoemaker, Calif. Lt. Frank J. Sims is on his way to Florida from Ottumwa.

☉ **PACIFIC.** F. Beminio is with the Air Corps somewhere in the Philippines . . . Pfc. Silvio Ranconi is stationed on an island in the Ryukyus where they raise about the same vegetables and crops that we do in Iowa . . . "I wonder how it will be to walk on sidewalks again." Pvt. Warren Slason, now somewhere in the south Pacific, says he hasn't seen a town with anything left of it since he left Honolulu . . . Ted O'Connor, jr., S/c, is on the USS Niagara somewhere out there—a way . . . Pfc. Alvin Anderson is somewhere in the Philippines . . . Pfc. Bob Hoover is in the Philippines somewhere near Manila. "I dash in there for relaxation. Kay Kyser is playing tonight." Thanks for the Jap pesos, Bob . . . Phil J. Dorweiler, Y 3/c, on Guam, was interviewed by Jack Shelly, peripatetic WHO newsmen in Guam, on what farm boys think about the farm, World War 2 version of World War 1 hit tune, "How you gonna keep 'em down on the farm after they've seen Paree." Other Dodgers in the near vicinity, Phil reports, are Cpl. Louis Fiddler; T/Sgt. Willard Carlson; Dick McNeily, Pfc. USMC; Don Carlson, GM 3/c; Jack Fitzgerald, EM 3/c, USMC; and Bill Jordison, Pvt. USMC.

☉ **DAS REICH.** S/Sgt. D. L. Thornton is with the MPs in Bamberg, Germany. "Tell Larry Geer 'hello' from me and to keep 'em swingin'." Thanks, Dan, for the "Story of the Corps of the Military Police." . . . T/5 Boyd Garton is now in an evacuation hospital in Bretten, Germany. "Was in Heidelberg the other day. Seems that the University is rather well camouflaged." . . . Pvt. Glenn Westphal, of Manson, is in Bamberg, Germany . . .

☉ **HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** Newell S. Porter, Pfc. to T/5 . . . C. F. Strand, Cpl. to Sgt. . . . Ensign Lee E. Brewer to Lt. (j. g.) . . . Alvin I. Anderson, Pvt. to Pfc. . . Meinhard Hollman, Pvt. to Pfc. . . Robert E. Hoover, Pvt. to Pfc. . . Glenn Westphal, Pvt. to Pfc. . . Albert J. Winter, Sgt. to Lt. . . . Daniel Thornton, T/5 to S/Sgt.

☉ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** LeRoy Thorson, APO 256, New York. "Here it is Aug. 1st, a day that I will never forget since it was just a year ago that we ran into a road block a few miles south of Averanches, France. Within 2 hours time we lost over 35 men which is about a third of our battery. Of course, a lot of them came back to us after a few months in the hospital but there were a lot of them who won't come back." Thanks for the "Armored Attacker", Leroy. When you can get a patch, we'd like one.

Lt. R. J. Spinharney, USNR, Brunswick, Maine. "As VJ day is officially announced I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your assistants, also the sponsors of YLFH for a job well done."

S/Sgt. Maurice H. Sandholm, Salina, Kansas. "We are all very happy here because the war is over. We are enjoying the two day holiday now. The Japs don't seem too cooperative yet though, do they? I am working as a radio mechanic here on B-29's. They are quite an airplane but definitely not a radio mechanics dream as they put the radio equipment either in a corner or under the floor."

Pfc. Dean W. Olson, c/o Fleet Postoffice, New York. "So far I still like the Pacific ocean best. I finally completed my tour of it. This past 3 months I have been to Eniwetok, Ulithi Atoll, Okinawa, Saipan and the Panama Canal. The canal was quite an experience. There are still traces of the old French machinery lying around. They were still blowing Japs out of caves when we were at Okinawa. We were pretty lucky while we were there and suffered no damage. It looks like I'll be in the Marine Corps for another 25 years before I ever accumulate enough points to rate discharge. I need 85 and only have 26. Keep the YLFH coming. It has more interesting news in it than the New York Sun."

Pfc. Foster F. Funk, APO 339, New York. "Our M. P. duties are still continuing fast and furious, Ed. One day we are in the doghouse and the next day instead of being out of it, well it's a little bit for the worse. As you know the M. P.'s are probably the most disliked guys in the Army. When I first entered the M. P.'s back in '41 I thought it was just a fable from the last war but these guys actually take it to heart. Oh, I don't blame the guys too much, it's the higher brass that puts out the orders that we have to enforce. Take it from me, Ed, some of those orders sound pretty silly, and it's no way to treat G. I.'s, after all they are only human. You ought to see the way the high brass gets around the orders they put out. P. S. They make their own."

Lt. Jerry McEvoy, APO 758, New York. "Lt. Willard James has been donating his copy of YLFH to me ever since he has known that I am from Iowa (Algona), and having lived in Fort Dodge during my three years of Nurses' training, I am greatly interested in it. Many of the names are unfamiliar to me, but in each issue I spot a few of my ex-patients and other friends. Foster Funk, for instance, whom I remember very well as a patient in 225 at Mercy—good memory. I certainly would like to run into him sometime, as I notice he is in this country. Several weeks ago you mentioned that as yet you had not received an Eisenhower patch for your collection, so I scouted around, determined that you should have one. Here it is—sorry I can't give you the significant details. Wiesbaden is a city of rare beauty, having been well shattered for most part during a 40-minute bombing raid by the RAF. However, the homes in the hospital area weren't destroyed, and some of them are really gorgeous. I think that everyone here will agree with me that Germany is a far nicer country than France, and it certainly is beyond my reasoning why the people should want it destroyed ever so many years. Must close now and do a bit of work. Thanx for putting out the paper—it helps revive memories and friendships." Thanks a million, Jerry, for a grand letter and that rare patch. When you come home—which I hope is soon—come in and tell me "the significant details."

F/O Arthur G. Edwards, Casablanca. "I've spent quite a lot of time looking at that aerial photo of Ft. Dodge, and although I've been away from home for quite some time now, I can still find my way around. Around here, so far, I've not run into anyone from home, but I did meet a Lt. Hanson, from Ft. Dodge, when I was in London last January. He was a navigator in a B-24 outfit. I also have met a Lt. Don Michelson, from Humboldt, when I was stationed in Accra, in the Central African Division. Since Central Africa folded up most of us have been transferred to the North African Division, and I've spent almost two months now flying Green Project men here to Casa from Naples, Italy, and also from Tripoli. Most of them have 24 to 36 months, which makes my 7 months overseas look rather puny. But I am getting enough C-46 time to satisfy me and also know that I've seen enough foreign places to satisfy me for the rest of my life—the old home town will really look good to me. Ed, I'm enclosing the local V-J special paper. It occurred to me that a collection of "sur-

render" papers would make an interesting collection some day, and as you seem to have been collecting things during your sojourn as editor, I'll send it to you as a small token of my appreciation for your work. I hope other fellows will have the same idea." Thanks a lot, Art. Hurry home.

Lt. (j. g.) Howard A. Bath, San Bruno, Calif. "I am stationed at the Naval Base, San Bruno, Calif., now in the sanitation department. Been instructing outgoing units in sanitation and tropical diseases. I see a lot of new faces from week to week. Over 1300 enlisted men and officers came through this department for instruction last week. The end of the war has meant no slackening of work in our department. In fact, it will probably be intensified because our men who occupy Japanese territories must have a knowledge of sanitation problems and diseases which they never before have encountered."

Cpl. Joe Augustine, Foggia, Italy. "Today we C-47d back from a week's rest leave in Venice. I had no idea one could spend a pleasant week this side of the Atlantic. There are several islands comprising the city of Venice. The Lido, on which we stayed, is undoubtedly the most attractive. In addition to its naturally beautiful beaches there is every imaginable convenience that goes toward making it a vacation paradise. Nice waitresses to serve you beer or Coca Cola. Nicer Red Cross girls to give you all the information you desire. And, best of all, no chicken. I mean you may walk by a colonel with hands in your pockets and save the energy for the more pleasant pastime of elbow-bending at the local bars. You may wear your sleeves rolled at an open-air showing of Carmen. Or you may sip a rum and coke on the terrace of many lovely hotels, which in other days were frequented only by the Astorbilts and such. What intrigued me most of all was the strange custom they have of sleeping between clean, white sheets, very nice! To top it off, I was 'forced' to stay over two days because of unfavorable flying weather. Now that we are 'cramming' for our return voyage my work is most demanding. But I can't remember ever having enjoyed working so much—." Thanks, Joe, for the hotel sticker.

Richard P. Fitzgerald, S 1/c, c/o FPO, San Francisco, Calif. "They keep us pretty busy here. Some days we put in as high as eighteen and nineteen hours, and believe me working in the heat isn't anything like back in good old Iowa. No one seems to mind the work as long as it helps. Today we heard about the new Atomic Bomb. If everything goes the way it should those little Sons of Hirohito won't be called rising much longer. The natives are all the time coming alongside and wanting to trade with us. They give us as high as eight Pesos (4 dollars) for a carton of cigarettes, but if we are caught selling them any it's too bad for us."

T/5 H. B. Garton, St. Mendel, Germany. "The only man I've met any place in the army from Ft. Dodge whom I knew is Dr. Smith, that rampant tooth carpenter from the State Bank Bldg. He knocked on the Dental Lab. door where I work. I went to the door and heard a voice asking if it might be possible to have a bottle of alloy. I said, "Yes, Capt. Smith", then he recognized me. We had a swell chat about everything and everyone we know at home. We were in the Glee Club together, so had been a lot of places together. I was so glad to see him that I think I'd have given him a whole 60 lb. chest had he asked for it."

Cpl. E. N. Eggen, Antwerp, Belgium. "I just gotta let you know how glad I was to get those pictures of the 'Old Home Town'. I have been looking for them ever since you mentioned them in one of your previous issues. I thought it would be about my luck that the letter they would come in would be lost. I patiently awaited the issue they were to come in and I was more than rewarded. Honest, they are the best pictures I have seen since I left home. I looked at them many times and showed them to everybody. You know since I have been overseas I become more proud of Ft. Dodge every day. I showed some Belgium civilians the pictures and they said "Is that New York?" You should have seen my chest stick out. (P. S. I wouldn't trade ten Ft. Dodge's for New York.) That was sure a marvelous shot of the Tobin Packing Plant. After working there 5 years it made me homesick to get back on the job. Here's a hoping soon."

Pfc. Rossette A. Harp, Passau, Germany. "I'm still in Waldkirchen but at the present time I'm on three days pass at the rest center in the city of Passau. The Danube River is just below me with boats of all kinds running up and down, most of them being operated by G. I.'s. A swimming pool is located way down by the river. Yesterday, I went down there and swam a little among other G. I. of the 83rd Division. The food is very good, and being handled by over seventy frau and fraulein of all nationalities, most of them speak perfect English. The American Red Cross is on the job. They keep us pretty well fed with their coffee and doughnuts. There is a dance every night here in the rest center and plenty of frauleins to dance with, too. This afternoon I went down town to the Arena and saw a USO show with Bob Hope, Jerry Colona, Gale Robbins, Jean Bruner, Ruth Denas, Patty Thomas, Jack Pepper, and Roger Price. It was the first time I saw Bob Hope in person. He's really good. Waldkirchen is getting to be quite a town. Homes that were shelled by artillery are being rebuilt and streets are kept pretty clean. Over 70 fraulein were brought from Winterberg, Czechoslovakia, to our first dance that we had about 10 days ago, and last Friday we had another dance. Waldkirchen girls were invited and also brought two trucks full of girls from Passau to make sure that every soldier got a girl to dance with."

There were other letters, swell ones from M. C. Edson, RM 2/c, Treasure Island; T/5 Newell S. Porter; Lt. Albert J. Winter, Strasbourg, France; Pvt. Earl E. Martin; Pvt. Cecil C. Markley, Fort Bliss, Texas.

The mail was a bit irregular this week. On the two VJ holidays, mail was delayed as millions of government employees took a long deferred holiday. We got a letter today that was supposed to have reached us a week ago. It came from that country that lies between Mexico and the U. S. A. That's right, Texas . . . Speaking of Texas, my theme song this week is "Back in the saddle once more." . . . Didn't Ken Peterson do a wonderful job on the letter during those three weeks? He's a great guy. Used to live in Webster City and is Don Peterson's brother. He was in the navy—this war—39 months. Got out about six months ago. Thing he's proudest of—his new granddaughter. He found out what a long stretch of hours go into the writing of this world's most dehydrated letter and in his new freedom this week, he has found time to stroll by every now and then to watch me labor and to say with a chuckle in his voice, "How's the letter coming?" . . . So, doggone you, Ken. There it is. And there it will be 'till every Joe and Jane comes home. Good luck, fellow. Write me from Tokyo. Be seeing you—and that's for sure.

Your Home Town Correspondent,
Ed Breen.